

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claims 2, 6, 8, 9, and 30-33 are pending. Please amend claims 2, 8 and 9. This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

***Listing Of Claims***

**Claim 1 (canceled).**

**Claim 2 (currently amended):** A receiving apparatus, which is communicably connected to a transmitting apparatus that transmits news information that contains text, for receiving the news information from said transmitting apparatus, comprising:  
receiving means for receiving the news information from said transmitting apparatus;  
retaining means for retaining the received news information in a storage device;  
voice output means for outputting the text content of the received news information retained in the storage device as a voice in an order predetermined for every genre of news information based upon the content of the news information;  
determining means, when said receiving means receives fresh news information, for determining degree of importance of the content of the fresh [[new]] news information; and  
display means for displaying an animation, which imitates a speaking individual, in conformity with the output of said voice,  
wherein said voice output means outputs the text content of the fresh news information as a voice preferentially if said determining means determines the degree of importance of the content of the fresh news information is higher than that of the content of [[other]] the news information [[which has already been received]] is retained in the storage device and is to be outputted next according to the order.

**Claims 3-5 (canceled).**

**Claim 6 (previously presented):** The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the order is capable of being set by a user.

**Claim 7 (canceled).**

**Claim 8 (currently amended):** An information processing method comprising:

- a step of receiving, via a communication path, news information that contains text from a transmitting apparatus that transmits the news information;
- a step of retaining the received news information in a storage device;
- a voice output step of outputting the text content of the received news information retained in the storage device as a voice in an order predetermined for every genre of news information based upon the content of the news information;
- a determining step, when fresh news information is received in said receiving step, of determining degree of importance of the content of the fresh news information; and
- a display step of displaying an animation, which imitates a speaking individual, in conformity with the output of said voice,

wherein the text content of the fresh news information is outputted as a voice preferentially in said voice output step if it is determined in said determining step that the degree of importance of the content of the fresh news information is higher than that of the content of [[other]] the news information [[which has already been received]] is retained in the storage device and is to be outputted next according to the order.

**Claim 9 (currently amended):** A computer readable medium encoded with a computer readable program for causing a computer to function as the following means, wherein said computer, which is communicably connected to a transmitting apparatus that transmits news information that contains text, receives the news information from said transmitting apparatus:

- receiving means for receiving the news information from said transmitting apparatus;
- retaining means for retaining the received news information in a storage device;
- voice output means for outputting the text content of the received news information retained in the storage device as a voice in an order predetermined for every genre of news information based upon the content of the news information;

determining means, when said receiving means receives fresh news information, for determining degree of importance of the content of the fresh news information; and

display means for displaying an animation, which imitates a speaking individual, in conformity with the output of said voice,

wherein said voice output means outputs the text content of the fresh news information as a voice preferentially if said determining means determines the degree of importance of the content of the fresh news information is higher than that of the content of [[other]] the news information [[which has already been received]] is retained in the storage device and is to be outputted next according to the order.

**Claims 10-29 (canceled).**

**Claims 30 (previously presented):** The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein it is notified that said voice output means outputs the text content of the fresh news information as a voice preferentially.

**Claims 31 (previously presented):** The apparatus according to claim 30, wherein said voice output means outputs a notification voice indicating that said voice output means outputs the text content of the fresh news information as a voice preferentially.

**Claims 32 (previously presented):** The apparatus according to claim 30, wherein said display means displays a notification indicating that said voice output means outputs the text content of the fresh news information as a voice preferentially.

**Claims 33 (previously presented):** The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said display means displays a caster animation, and  
the caster animation is changed when said voice output means outputs the text content of the fresh news information as a voice preferentially.